

# **Minutes of Meeting**

## **Tulare County Flood Control Commissioners**

Friday, October 23, 2015, 8:00 AM

Tulare County Resource Management Agency Conference Room

### **Attendees:**

Commissioners present: Dale Brogan; Mark Larsen; Dan Vink, Chairman; Doug Jackson; Fergus Morrissey and Dale West, Vice-Chairman.  
Commissioner absent: Walter Bricker.

County representation: Reed Schenke and Alfredo Reynoso-Haro with Resource Management Agency (RMA.) and Will Jackson with County Counsel.

Visitors: Shane Smith with Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District.

### **Agenda Items:**

Item 1. Meeting called to order at 8:00 AM.

Item 2. Minutes of September 25, 2015 meeting:

A motion by Mark Larsen to approve the minutes was seconded by Fergus Morrissey and approved by unanimous vote.

Item 3. Public comment period: None

Item 4. Staff report on Flood Control District matters:

A. El Niño preparations:

a. The El Niño Emergency Response Plan.

In the past month we met with the south county irrigation districts, representing the Irrigation Districts were: the Friant Water Authority, Delano-Earlimart ID, JG Boswell, Lower Tule ID, Angiola WD and Tulare Lake Bed. We have made good progress on the risk assessment; one of the concerns is that there has been some subsidence in the Alpaugh and Allensworth areas. We identified a need for White River cleanup coordination plan. Also discussed gauging stations along White River, there are some that are either non-functioning or need repair. Further requests to DWR may be necessary. On October 1st we met with the representatives from the City of Porterville. Porterville focuses on the Porter Slough going through town, they have cleared about three quarters of the channel, City of Porterville does not get too involved with Tule River. On October 7th we met with Delano Earlimart Irrigation and talked specifically about White river. There are some concerns about debris on the banks which gets caught either at the low water crossings or at the bridges, Tulare County sent out letters to property owners to remind

them it is their responsibility to do their part, as owners of the portion of White River within their property.

Staff informed the commission that the county will be presenting, on October 27th, to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) the Flood Control Action Plan. The grand jury requested a status update and since we are presenting this to the BOS we invited them to be available at the meeting, they are interested in our flood control preparation.

Commissioner Morrissey, in reference to NOAA's forecast being a fifty percent chance of above average precipitation said that in his opinion, it is unremarkable. He suggested the attendees reading the document "Droughts and Floods in Tulare Lake basin", it is very alarming.

We have not had a 20-year flood in forty years. Our biggest risk is the winter flood not the snow melt flood. The conditions in the ocean right now are prime for that type of event to happen because of the warm motion is going to bring the cycle up north to the California coast, it is going to come and hit us. This area is set to be 10 feet under water. It has happened before, it will happen again.

b. Channel clearing efforts update

We have been very successful on what we call minor channel clearing operation, this is something we can do without requiring streambed alteration agreements. On the BOS's October 27th agenda, an agreement with Fish and Wild Life for streambed alteration will be included, that will be for work within 200 feet of the bridges, culverts and channels. The intent is to, once we have the agreement, go back and amend it to expand the scope of what we can do.

Commissioner Brogan informed that the property owners adjacent to White River are willing to do channel clearing. In his opinion, the Tulare County Flood Control District has broad flood control authority and would pursue the 1602 permit to do the entire length of channels, then, the county could enter into separate agreements with the property owners where they can do channel clearing, or the county can enter into an agreement with the irrigation districts and the irrigation districts can enter into an agreement with the property owners.

Chairman Vink and Commissioner Larsen said their irrigation districts have a 1602 agreement for the entire length of Tule River and Kaweah River, respectively.

Commissioner Dale West expressed his concern saying that given the channel clearing agreement in place where there is a limitation of 200 feet from a bridge the clearing effort will not address the excessive growth problem at several different locations of the Cottonwood Creek.

B. Report on the status of the flood control projects

a. Seville-Sontag Ditch:

We finished the design last month and we are working on the easement. A reimbursement process to the property owner at the north-west corner will take from 2 to 3 months.

b. Juvenile Detention Facility-Cottonwood Creek

The design is completed, we still need to wait and hear from the board whether they want to fund the project, it is a \$1.5M project. We just completed the construction of the berm on the south bank of the Cottonwood Creek.

Chairman Vink mentioned that the commission requested that BOS be notified they recommend proceeding with funding the Juvenile Detention Facility-Cottonwood Creek project from the Flood control funds.

c. Yettem-Button Ditch

Progress is at the same stage as one month earlier. Focus has been on El Niño preparations.

C. Public Notice Policy for Flood Control Project Selection

a. New Board of Supervisors Policy

As part of the Tulare County General Plan there was a settlement with the Sierra Club covering a broad range of land use issues. One of those settlement issues impacted flood control items. This new policy requires incorporating more public involvement in providing suggestions for flood control projects.

b. Annual Opportunity for public input

Board policy now requires the Flood Control Commission to adopt a policy allowing for public notice and comments on proposed flood control projects, develop a suggestion form, set annual deadlines for suggestions, publishing in the newspaper, accept written comments from the public, compile a list, respond to each suggestion submitted and hold a public meeting. Staff will endeavor to make the public suggestion process productive.

Item 5. Consider other business:

Chairman Vink informed that, on November 9th, he will attend a meeting on the Success Reservoir enlargement. The storage restrictions and dam safety issues are being overcome. One of the actions will be to widen the spillway.

Commissioner Dale Brogan stated that some gauging stations on the foothill are either non-functioning or need to be repaired and requested from the county some political action, as necessary.

Item 6. Set next Flood Control Commission meeting:

The next Flood Control Commission meeting was set for Friday, November 20, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in the main conference room at RMA's office,

Item 7. Adjourn meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.